(b) if so, the details including the export and import of these items, during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any measures were taken or are proposed to be taken to avoid hardship to farmers due to this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any State Government has made submission for restoring import duty on spices; and

(f) if so, the action taken on above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Year-wise and commodity-wise details of the export and import of various items is published by the Director General, Commercial Intelligence and Statistics in the "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I & II" and copies thereof are available in Library of the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The Government regularly monitors the impact of the measures taken in the Exim Policy. In case the situation warrants, the Government can initiate permissible tariff and non-tariff measures consistent with the Exim Policy and international commitments.

(e) and (f) The Exim Policy announced on 31.03.2003 does not provide any exemption on import duty on spices.

New Exim Policy

3110. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the new Exim Policy;

(b) if so, its salient features;

(c) the effective steps taken to ensure that small and medium industrial units do not close down effecting loss of production and rendering lakhs of people jobless; and

(d) how far the new policy will help in creating new job opportunities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual revised edition of the Exim Policy, 2002—07 has been notified on 31st March, 2003. The Exim Policy has identified few engines of growth such as services, Special Economic Zones, agri export zones, export clusters and status holders for giving focused attention so as to achieve the goal of 1% share of world trade by 2007. The Policy also aims to reduce transaction cost of the Indian exporters through implementation of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Programme.

(c) and (d) The objectives of the Exim Policy is to stimulate sustained economic growth by augmenting production and providing services. It also aims to enhance the technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services thereby improving their competitive strength while generating new employment opportunities. The scheme of export clusters aims to bridge the infrastructural gaps mostly affecting the small and medium industrial units so as to boost productivity and international competitiveness.

Cultivation of Tobacco

3111. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of farming community depend on cultivation of tobacco in the country;

(b) the details of tobacco production showing volume, value, land size and number of farmers engaged for the last five years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has been taking steps to encourage farmers in the State to shift to other cash crops in lieu of tobacco;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with its result so far;

(e) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has initiated any steps towards gradual reduction of tobacco production by farmers in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.